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Identical letters dated 20 July 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I wish to express our grave concern that the Permanent Mission of Egypt to the United Nations has taken advantage of its membership of the Security Council to advance its own particular political goals. Those goals have nothing to do with the work of the Security Council or its committees. Indeed, they negatively affect the Council's work, its role in maintaining international peace and security, and the objectivity of its conduct. In particular, Egypt has taken advantage of its membership of the Security Council to make baseless claims and accusations against the Qatar, most recently at the 8007th meeting of the Security Council on 20 July 2017.

Qatar categorically rejects all of the allegations made by Egypt. International reports and confirmed intelligence from around the world have shown that the allegations are fabricated. They are part of a tendentious campaign against Qatar, one in which Egypt has participated. That campaign is based only on media reports and on information provided by illegitimate militias which Egypt supports, and which are involved in the current conflicts in the region. Such militias have no credibility, and they are known to have committed grave violations of international law and human rights.

The real reasons for this tendentious campaign against Qatar are now clear and beyond doubt. The campaign began when the website of the Qatari News Agency was hacked on 24 May 2017. Next, unilateral coercive economic measures were taken against Qatar, including an illegal and inhumane embargo that flagrantly contravenes the Charter of the United Nations and the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States. The effect is to create a climate of instability and a precarious humanitarian situation for the peoples of the region. The claims repeatedly made by Egypt should be seen in the context of this tendentious campaign, which has failed to achieve its aims.

Terrorism is a serious challenge to the international community, and it is at the forefront of the United Nations' priorities. The counter-terrorism committees of the United Nations have a pivotal role to play in shoring up international efforts to fight terrorism, and they therefore have a responsibility to be objective, respect the provisions of international law and eschew selectivity and politicization. However, Egypt has taken advantage of its position as Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) to achieve its own particular political goals and to endeavour to settle accounts with certain States. In

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so doing, it has undermined the credibility and objectivity of those committees and blatantly violated the customary mode of conduct at the United Nations and, in particular, the Security Council. It has completely ignored the mandate Security Council and the solemn responsibility discharged by its members in maintaining international peace and security.

The Charter of the United Nations sets forth certain obligations in order to ensure that the Organization can fulfil its functions and that the maintenance of international peace and security is not jeopardized. Accordingly, when Member States fulfil their duties, they should take care to act with integrity and objectivity in all matters pertaining to international relations. For that purpose, they should take action to ensure that the provisions of the Charter are not violated, that international efforts to achieve the purposes and principles of the United Nations are not undermined, that international peace and security are not jeopardized, and that the international counter-terrorism campaign is not disrupted.

Qatar has been, and will continue to be, an effective member of the international community in tackling shared challenges, particularly counter-terrorism. It will continue to cooperate closely with United Nations entities to promote peace, security, development, humanitarian relief and other goals that can help create a stable international environment and bring about conditions conducive to the eradication of extremism and terrorism. Qatar has a proven record of combating terrorism, complying with the resolutions of the Security Council and cooperating with the United Nations. It has worked effectively and constructively in the context of joint international efforts to combat terrorism and its financing and tackle the roots of terrorism. It has responded positively to the range of reports compiled by the United Nations, its entities and the international community. Those facts should dispel any claims regarding ties between Qatar and terrorism.

Qatar is committed to fostering bilateral cooperation to combat terrorism and deprive terrorist groups of the sources of funding. It has therefore signed a memorandum of understanding with the United States of America, making it the first country to put into practice what was agreed at the Arab Islamic American Summit held recently in Riyadh. Qatar has sought to bring the States of the region into the ongoing counter-terrorism efforts and has urged them to join forces in order to help contain terrorism. Those actions show that Qatar is genuinely fighting terrorism at the regional and international levels. They disprove all of the allegations that have been made against the country.

The positions taken by Qatar regarding the current conflicts in the region are fully consistent with international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the consensus of the international community. Those positions are intended to alleviate suffering and find peaceful solutions to crises. They are based on clear and consistent principles, namely mutual respect between States and non-interference in internal affairs. In responding to those crises, Qatar has continued to act in the context of the United Nations, in accordance with the authoritative international resolutions, and in a clear and open manner. In every instance, Qatar has endeavoured to garner national consensus with a view to achieving stability and security and eradicating terrorism and its root causes.

For its part, the Security Council should beware of the effects of the Egyptian regime's support for parties that are working to undermine unity, stability and the consensus-based political solutions that are set out in the resolutions of the Security Council. By using counter-terrorism to achieve political ends, and by supporting the parties to conflicts through military operations that violate Security Council resolutions, international law and human rights, Egypt has helped to create an environment conducive to the spread of terrorism and extremism. While claiming to

fight terrorism, Egypt has fabricated claims against Qatar, and there are worrying signs that it taken advantage of its membership of the Security Council to undermine the Security Council's efforts to tackle terrorist entities.

Lastly, Qatar reiterates its deep regret that Egypt, which occupies the seat intended for an Arab State on the Security Council, has taken advantage of that solemn responsibility to disparage an Arab State and, in so doing, has undermined cooperation within the Arab region, exacerbated the challenges facing the region and negatively affected its peace and security.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Alya Ahmed Saif **Al-Thani**
Permanent Representative